

Original research article

Continuation rates and reasons for discontinuing
TCu380A IUD use in Tabriz, Iran[☆]Encieh Jenabi^{a,*}, Sakine Mohammad Alizade^b, Reyhane Ivan Baga^b^a*Department of Midwifery, Toyserkan University of Islamic Azad, Hamedan, Iran*^b*Department of Midwifery, Tabriz University, East Azarbaijan, Iran*

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Abstract

Purpose: The long-term effectiveness of copper-bearing intrauterine device (IUD) has been documented. This paper reports results from a 60-month study on the use of TCu380A IUD among 401 women in Tabriz, Iran.

Materials: In 2003, a 5% sample of women who had had an IUD inserted between May 1997 and May 1999 was taken. Analyses of discontinuation employed Tietze net rate life tables.

Results: Continuation of TCu380A IUD use by women at 1 month, 6 month, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years and 5 years was 98.2, 89.3, 79.3, 68.3, 57.6, 49.5 and 45.0 per 100, respectively. Among women using the TCu380A IUD, the rate of termination due to pain/bleeding was significantly higher than the rate of termination due to other causes. Overall, two pregnancies were reported within 5 years after insertion. A third pregnancy occurred on Year 6.

Conclusion: These findings indicate that family planning educators and health care providers should give more emphasis to counseling programs for women desiring IUD insertion and during follow-up.

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Keywords: Intrauterine device; Continuation rate; Discontinuation reasons; TCu380A IUD

1. Introduction

Intrauterine device (IUD) is a popular and tested method of contraception [1]. Worldwide, more than 130 million women of reproductive age use IUDs [2]. According to a study in 1999, the prevalence rates of users in Iran and the province of East Azarbaijan were 8.5 and 12.5 per 100 women, respectively. TCu380A IUD is somewhat more popular in East Azarbaijan province than it is in Iran as a whole [3].

There are a variety of modern IUDs in many shapes and sizes that are available to women in developing countries. To date, the most effective and longest tested IUD is copper TCu380A [4]. This copper IUD is one of the safest, most effective and least expensive contraceptives available [5].

The TCu380A IUD has a high efficacy and a 10-year life span. The life table rate of pregnancy in the first year is 0.8 per 100 continuing users and 2.6 per 100 users in 10 years [6]. However, little information is available regarding compliance with prescriptions or regarding rates of continuation of modern contraceptive methods in Iran.

Using life table methods, we wished to evaluate the primary factors contributing to complications and complaints that determine continuation, and the rates of accidental pregnancy and discontinuation over the first 60 months.

2. Materials and methods

TCu380A is a T-shaped IUD that has a polyethylene frame wound with 176 mg of copper wire on the stem and collars, and contains 66.5 mg of copper on each of its transverse arms. The total exposed surface area of copper is approximately 380 mm² [2].

2.1. Enrollment and design

The study population comprised all women who had TCu380A IUD insertion from May 1997 to May 1999. The

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